NOTES & NEWS

Sterkia hemphilli (Sterki) in Central California

BY

BARRY ROTH

Department of Geology, California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco, California 94118

THE MINUTE PUPILLID SNAIL *Sterkia hemphilli* (Sterki, 1890) enjoys a fairly wide latitudinal distribution in southern and Lower California. It has been reported in coastal and subcoastal situations from Punta Abreojos north to the San Diego region (PILSBRY, 1948) and inland in Waterman Canyon, San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino County (BERRY, 1916).

In October 1972 the author collected vegetable debris from under plant clumps on sand dunes immediately north and west of Oso Flaco Lake, southwestern San Luis Obispo County. *Sterkia hemphilli* was present in the debris in considerable numbers.

The specimens agree in most particulars with original lot material in the California Academy of Sciences and with specimens from Waterman Canyon (A. G. Smith collection No. 883). The peripheral sulcus on the last whorl is consistently well developed. Two scalariform specimens were found, one of 2½, the other of 3½ whorls. Variable characters within the species include the strength of the peripheral sulcus, convexity of whorls, and length-breadth ratio.

This portion of the central California coast has a mild climate with cool summers and relatively uniform temperatures. Most of the year's rainfall occurs in winter. At the collection site, the vegetation is the Coastal Strand plant community of MUNZ & KECK (1959); conspicuous plants include sea-fig (*Carpobrotus chilensis*), Hottentot-fig (*C. edulis*), coastal isocoma (*Isocoma veneta*), prickly phlox (*Leptodactylon californicum*), and bush lupine (*Lupinus* spp.). Around the roots of these plants the sand is somewhat stabilized. Coastal fog condenses on the foliage; a drip zone underneath offers slight continual dampness throughout the rainless summer months. This undoubtedly favors molluscan activity.

In addition to *Sterkia hemphilli,* the minute snails *Striatura pugetensis* (Dall, 1895), *Punctum conspectum* (Bland, 1865), and *Vertigo californica californica* (Rowell, 1861) were found in the litter. Shells of an *Helminthoglypta* similar to *H. walkeriana* (Hemphill, 1911) were common on top of the debris.

The author extends his thanks to Allyn G. Smith, California Academy of Sciences, who examined the material and recognized the occurrence as a range extension. Elizabeth McClintock kindly identified some of the plant species. Representative specimens of the snail have been deposited in the Department of Geology, California Academy of Sciences, and in the private collections of A. G. Smith and the author.

Literature Cited

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1948. Land Mollusca of North America (north of Mexico). Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, Monogr. 3; 2 (2): xlvii, 521 - 1113; text figs. 282 - 585 (19 March 1948)
STERKI, VICTOR
1890. Notes on some North American Pupidae with descriptions of new species. The Nautilus 4 (3): 27-28 (July 1890)

Babakina, New Name for *Babaina* Roller, 1972, Preoccupied

BY

RICHARD A. ROLLER

607 Driskell Street, Paris, Illinois 61944

RECENTLY SEVERAL COLLEAGUES have kindly informed me that the generic name *Babaina* has been listed in the systematic section of the work on the subclass Opisthobranchia, family Chromodorididae by FRANC (1968) in the Traité de Zoologie. The name is attributed to Odhner, but apparently first appears in the Franc work, with no statement as to how the name was first proposed, or who made the type choice. The full citation from page 867 is as follows:

"*Babaina* Odhner. Dents toutes allongées, étroites, bicuspidées. *B. florens* Baba, Japon."

It would appear that the description by Franc is sufficient to constitute a valid generic name. Therefore the

Babaina proposed by me (ROLLER, 1972) for a genus of eolid nudibranchs is preoccupied. I propose the name ***Babakina*** as a substitute for *Babaina* Roller, 1972. The new family name would become **Babakinidae**.

BABAKINIDAE Roller, nom. nov.

Babakina Roller, nom. nov.

Babakina festiva (Roller, 1972), comb. nov.

Literature Cited

FRANC, ANDRÉ
1968. Sous-classe des opisthobranches. Mollusques gastéropodes et scaphopodes. *In*: P. Grassé, Traité de zoologie: Anatomie, systématique, biologie. 5 (3): 1083 pp.; 11 plts.; 517 text figs. Paris: Masson & Cie.

ROLLER, RICHARD A.
1972. Three new species of eolid nudibranchs from the west coast of North America. The Veliger **14** (4): 416 - 423; 28 text figs. (1 April 1972)

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